



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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Secretary

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Emergency Order
2 – AHO - 05
Concerning Controls on Importation of Animals from Louisiana,
Mississippi and Alabama
September 22, 2005

Whereas, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has received reliable information that various local and national animal welfare and shelter groups are engaged in importing animals into the Commonwealth from areas affected by hurricane Katrina;

Whereas, the veterinary infrastructure in the gulf coast region has been severely inhibited by the destruction of hurricane Katrina, and the remaining infrastructure is severely taxed in responding to the disaster;

Whereas, a functioning veterinary infrastructure is necessary to issue health certificates and provide other services necessary to ensure animals originating from a given area are healthy and free of communicable diseases;

Whereas, veterinary medical records necessary to determine the health and vaccination history of an animal were destroyed or otherwise unavailable for animals displaced by hurricane Katrina;

Whereas, veterinary medical records are normally used to determine the vaccination status of an animal and general health of an animal prior to importation;

Whereas; many animals displaced by hurricane Katrina have been exposed to environmental conditions conducive to the contraction of contagious disease;

Whereas; rabies, canine parvovirus, equine infectious anemia, and canine distemper exist in the Gulf Coast region;

Whereas; MGL 140, Section 138a requires that a health certificate accompany all animals entering the Commonwealth;

Whereas; Emergency Order 1-AH0-05 issued by the Director of Biosecurity, Animal Health and Dairy services list several requirements concerning animals being brought into the Commonwealth;

Whereas; animals displaced by hurricane Katrina were separated from their legal owners and unorganized removal of these animals to another location greatly decreases the likelihood of these animals being reunited with their rightful owners;

Whereas, the Commonwealth has an emergency management plan addressing how to deal with animals in disaster situations and the Department of Agricultural Resources is designated as the lead agency in coordinating a response;

NOW THEREFORE, by authority of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 129, Section 2, as of this date, and until further notice, no dogs or cats will be permitted entry into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that have originated in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi unless through mechanisms and processes approved by the Department of Agricultural Resources.



09/22/2005

Brad Mitchell
Director
Division of Biosecurity and Regulatory Services
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Date